



April 20, 2005

The Honorable J. Dennis Hastert
Speaker of the House
United States Congress
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Speaker:

We write as the leaders of some of the nation's largest employers in the technology industry, to urge your support for enactment of the U.S.-Central America and Dominican Republic Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA-DR). Implementation of the CAFTA-DR is a high priority of TechNet and the entire technology industry.

Enactment of the CAFTA-DR will expand markets and export opportunities for U.S. technology products and services. The agreement is critical to the technology industries because it will eliminate information technology tariffs, open up key information technology services including telecommunications, promote e-commerce and establish stronger intellectual property protections.

Unlike any other free trade agreement in which the United States has entered, the vast majority of industrial and agricultural goods from these six countries already enter the U.S. duty-free as a result of unilateral preference programs that Congress has overwhelmingly supported for decades. The CAFTA-DR will open up the markets in Central America and the Dominican Republic to American goods and services, for the benefit of the technology sector and other U.S. industries. The agreement will promote improved enforcement of already strong labor and environmental protections in the six Central American and Caribbean countries and continued improvement in those protections through closer economic engagement and capacity-building projects. The CAFTA-DR is an important precedent that confirms the U.S. commitment to building strong economic alliances with our neighbors in the Western Hemisphere and developing nations around the world.

As members of TechNet and the leaders of many of the technology industry's largest employers, we urge you to support free trade and continued U.S. global leadership by approving the U.S.-Central America and Dominican Republic Free Trade Agreement.

Sincerely,

John Chambers
President and CEO
Cisco Systems, Inc.
Co-Founder, TechNet

John Doerr
Partner
Kleiner Perkins Caufield & Byers
Co-Founder, TechNet

Rick White
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Arthur Coviello, Jr.
President & CEO
RSA Security, Inc.

Ms. Robin L. Curle
President, CEO, and Chairman
Zebra Imaging, Inc.

Paul Deninger
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Broadview, A Jefferies Co.

Robert Deuster
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Newport Corporation

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Mike Splinter
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Bob Stearns
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